



# Monster Theory: Reading Culture

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## **Monster Theory: Reading Culture** Jeffrey Jerome Cohen (Editor)

We live in a time of monsters. Monsters provide a key to understanding the culture that spawned them. So argue the essays in this wide-ranging and fascinating collection that asks the question, What happens when critical theorists take the study of monsters seriously as a means of examining our culture?

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In viewing the monstrous body as a metaphor for the cultural body, the contributors to *Monster Theory* consider beasts, demons, freaks, and fiends as symbolic expressions of cultural unease that pervade a society and shape its collective behavior. Through a historical sampling of monsters, these essays argue that our fascination for the monstrous testifies to our continued desire to explore difference and prohibition.

Contributors: Mary Baine Campbell, Brandeis U; David L. Clark, McMaster U; Frank Grady, U of Missouri, St. Louis; David A. Hedrich Hirsch, U of Illinois; Lawrence D. Kritzman, Dartmouth College; Kathleen Perry Long, Cornell U; Stephen Pender; Allison Pingree, Harvard U; Anne Lake Prescott, Barnard College; John O'Neill, York U; William Sayers, George Washington U; Michael Uebel, U of Virginia; Ruth Waterhouse. "

## **Monster Theory: Reading Culture Details**

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## From Reader Review Monster Theory: Reading Culture for online ebook

### Ash says

Part-read, probably about 20% in total. The first essay, by Cohen himself, is particularly good.

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### Noortje says

Ik heb hier enkel delen uit gelezen voor een vak. De theorie boeide me en werd goed onderbouwd.

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### Caitlin says

Read the Preface, "Monster Culture (Seven Theses)," "Beowulf as Palimpsest," and "Unthinking the Monster: Twelfth-Century Responses to Saracen Alterity." 4 stars because Waterhouse's "Beowulf as Palimpsest" was weak but Cohen and Uebel were intriguing. Would like to return to read the rest at some point!

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### jenice says

fascinating

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### Elizabeth says

2.5 stars for me. Interesting topic, but this turned out to be very different from what I was expecting and not really my kind of book.

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### Steve Wiggins says

Monsters require a theory. Although some of the essays in this volume are excellent, a number of them skew into post-modern analysis that doesn't really help very much. It doesn't provide any kind of theory that is widely applicable, but several of the contributions are well worth reading. I add further comments about the book on my blog: Sects and Violence in the Ancient World.

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### rebecca says

research/re-visiting.

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## Monica says

For a book entitled Monster Theory, it was a pretty dull read. A couple of the essays were interesting and insightful, but mostly it came off as a community book written by a cohort of grad students desperate for publication. It is well written, and well researched, but the ideas aren't revolutionary. Perhaps when it was originally published, these ideas were more compelling.

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